

PENOBSCOT MARINE MUSEUM

Inventory for
Manuscript Collection

PMM 102

Joseph Oaks Shipyard Account Books

1873 – 1877

3 volumes
.5 linear feet
Accession No. LB2021.6

Stephen Phillips Memorial Library

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PMM 102

Joseph Oaks Shipyard Account Books

Oaks, Joseph, 1815-1881

Account books, 1873-1877

3 volumes (.5 linear feet)

Shipbuilder in Brewer, Maine

Two daybooks and a book of cash accounts from the Joseph Oaks shipyard in Brewer, Maine, providing a detailed record of the operations at a busy wooden shipbuilder. The account books record most aspects of the shipyard's daily business, including the construction of new ships, major and minor repairs on other vessels, types and cost of materials used, and hours worked and wages paid to the shipyard's employees.

In English

Found in Collection; LB2021.6

Finding aid available; folder level control

Subject Headings:

Oaks, Joseph, 1815-1881

Brewer (Me.)

Shipbuilding

Shipbuilding—equipment and supplies

Shipbuilding industry—employees

Ships—Maintenance and repair

Shipyards

Restrictions

This collection is open for research. There are no special restrictions.

Condition:

This collection is in fair to poor condition. Covers are missing or damaged and bindings are fragile and broken. Volumes show evidence of dormant mold and past water damage. Text is still legible.

Related Materials:

A diary kept by Joseph Oaks's granddaughter, Margaret M. Oaks, on a voyage on the family-owned barkentine MARY JENNESS, is MS 556. The museum also owns a painting of the MARY JENNESS: 2004.13

Historical Note:

Joseph Oaks (1815-1881) was a shipbuilder and shipyard owner in Brewer, Maine. Born in Hancock, Maine, Oaks began his career as caulker, working in shipyards in Searsport and Brewer. He settled in Brewer in the late 1850s and opened his own shipyard. The Oaks yard built large vessels like the ship LLWELLYN J. MORSE and barkentine MARY JENNESS. It also did repair work for vessels in the Penobscot River.

Joseph Oaks's son, Joseph Dudley Oaks (1842-1929), joined his father as a clerk in the shipyard. After Oaks's death in 1881, the younger Joseph D. and his brother, sea captain George H. Oaks, ran the shipyard as G.H. & J.D. Oaks until 1887. The property was later used as a shipyard by Samuel H. Barbour.

Scope and Content:

This collection contains three account books from the Joseph Oaks Shipyard in Brewer, Maine. Two daybooks, covering the years 1873 and 1874, contain detailed entries for building and repairing a wide variety of vessels. These include entries for materials used and the number of hours of carpentry, sparmaking, caulking, or other specialized labor expended, with itemized charges for each. These daybooks also contain regular entries for salaries paid to the shipyard's employees, noting each individual's name and wages received. There are also occasional entries for sales of tools and materials to named individuals.

The third volume is a cash account book, listing income and payments from the shipyard's account in summary form. Entries for disbursements are far less detailed than those in the daybooks, but entries for income list payments from a variety of sources, including payments from shipowners for a new vessel and income from bank investments. The back pages of this volume include some detailed accounts with individual schooners, and copies of legal texts regarding the shipyard's permit to extend its wharf.

Item List:

MS 304	Daybook, 1873
MS 305	Daybook, 1874 (some accounts from 1872 and 1873)
MS 311	Account book, cash accounts, 1876-1877